

Volume 9, Edition 7

July

# Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club **WIRELESS**

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2005



**A FIELD DAY LOOK AT YEARS  
PRESENT**

**Steve, KD6KVY, and son Jonathan at the 2005 VOMARC Field Day Operation**  
**(Last month was Field Day Past;**  
**a picture of Field Day Future will appear in a future edition of the wireless)**

### **FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL**

One of the little bonuses of solid state technology is that our shacks are a little cooler than the old vacuum tube days. I used a station when I was at Santa Clara Univ. that ran a kilowatt on AM. It was a six feet tall monster that had two output tubes glowing red. The other part was the modulator section that put out 500 watts of audio with another pair of big tubes. Didn't need a heater even in the winter.

The ARRL is again appealing for donations for their Spectrum Defense Fund. Part of the money will go toward the next International Amateur Radio Union meeting. On the agenda is more spectrum in the 4 to 10 mhz range. Another use is for the three technical specialists in Washington D.C. The effort is worth it.

The latest victories are the improvements in the 40-meter band which has lead to a wider harmonized band worldwide.

I hated to miss this year's Field Day. Looks like everyone had a good time and the log shows a lot of activity. Ken, N6KM, and I are in the process of getting the log submitted. A big thanks to

Dave, KD6FIL, for inputting all the data.

Ask Tim, KG6ASY, about his new home brew two meter, 3-element beam, for 2 meters. On air reports a gain of 6db.

Welcome back Darrel after his vacation to North Dakota. His ICOM 706 got quite a workout, this time from a vehicle and not a plane.

Thank you all for participating in the weekly VOMARC nets.

We still need you articles for the newsletter. It's easy. If you have something, you can e-mail it to Darrel at.

[wd6bor@vom.com](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com). Nearly everyone now has a digital camera, so your ham related pictures are welcome. If you have some ham gear to sell, write it up and submit it.

Take a look at [www.wx4nhc.org/](http://www.wx4nhc.org/) This website is dedicated to hams that operate at the national hurricane center. There is a very nice set of plans for an emergency j pole antenna for 2 meters and 220 Mhz. I bet they were pretty busy with Dennis last week.

That's it for this month. Have a

nice summer and enjoy the hobby.

73, Jim

**FROM JUST A LITTLE  
FARTHER DOWN THE HILL  
(VP'S REPORT)**

From the VP Desk...

It was mentioned in last week's Wednesday night net that plans were being discussed to include an ACS event at the next VOMARC meeting.

VOMARC members; this next meeting, July 20<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at McDougal Hall , Sonoma Developmental Center, @ 7:30 pm.

I will conduct a short business meeting and Ken, N6KM will give us a briefing before we disperse for an ACS exercise. Bring your HT's and ACS ID cards. After the exercise those who wish can meet at the BLACK BEAR DINER in Sonoma for coffee. See you at the meeting.

DAN, KG6LJN

**VOMARC MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 15, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM. There were 20 in attendance.

Introductions were done.

Jim Hill, K6UUW, President, was not present. Dan Sorrick,

KG6LJN, Vice President, presided.

Minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's report: There is about \$2200 in the bank and a couple of outstanding bills.

The Hit the Road Jack race went well, Eileen, KG6QNT, was the coordinator and did a very nice job. She reported that she learned a lot from the experience.

Suit Sat report: Our sensors did not get launched with the suitsat due to NASA politics. However, the project continues.

All the vacuum tubes that were sorted have been sold. More need to be sorted and tested. It was suggested we have another tube sorting party.

The next VE Session is August 23, 2005, at McDougal Hall. Darrell, WD6BOR, still needs to get signs to put up for directions.

ACS: Monday night Jim Hill, K6UUW, and Ken McTaggart, N6KM, will be at the EOC during the net. Police chief Guerney is about to retire. The club will present him with a certificate of appreciation within a month. While driving by the fire department in Agua Caliente, Ken noticed the antenna is not on the roof. He asked someone to volunteer to stop by the fire house and check it out. Ken reports that other clubs have

equipment custodians who are in charge of maintaining the equipment at different locations in good operating order. He suggested that it might be a good idea for our club to do the same.

There was no Old Business.

New Business:

Dan Sorrick, KG6LJN, is coordinator of the Fourth of July parade. There will be no parking at all around the Plaza this year. The police chief is trying to get more barriers. Volunteers are still needed. When you sign up, please indicate your position preference if you have one. The Explorer scouts will also be helping with the parade as well as some other community service groups. Dan will print maps to distribute to the public that have directions for getting around the parade route.

Field Day is June 25 - 26, 2005. It will be held in the Maxwell Village picnic area by the Boy's & Girl's Club as it was last year. Only two cars will be allowed to park by the picnic area. Everyone else is requested to park in the parking lot and to pay the day use parking fee. The county paperwork has been approved, but has not yet been received by the club secretary. Supplies needed are food, antennas, notch filters, three radios with tuners and head sets. The club will use its 718 radio, the solar panels and bring the antenna trailer. We, also,

need three laptops to log contacts. Saturday there will be a potluck BBQ. The logging program can be downloaded from the internet, but it would be wise to bring a diskette for each frequency.

It was asked if the club could pay the parking for attendees. It was moved and seconded that the club would pay if it was a hardship on someone and they really need to be reimbursed for parking. If so, the parking receipt needs to be given to the treasurer.

Andrew, KE6HID, has a neighbor who is moving. He has lots of equipment for sale, including a couple Icom HT's. The Icom's are \$100 for the pair. If anyone is interested, please contact Andrew.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM and Gerhard Straub, who was visiting from his home back east gave a presentation on his job. He works for IBB office of engineering under the Voice of America. His job is installing and maintaining antenna systems all over the world for the short wave broadcasting system. His presentation included pictures of various locations and was very interesting. We thank Gerhard for sharing with us.

Joel Nadler, NN6J, won the door prize.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Brady, W6WXU

Secretary

## **CALENDAR**

Upcoming events you might be interested in are:

Meetings, 7:30 pm (1930 local):

July 20

August 17

September 21

October 19

November 23

December Xmas party to be determined

Club Breakfasts, 9:30 am (0930 local):

August 6

September 3

October 1

November 5

December 3

VE Sessions, at McDougal Hall, 9 am:

August 6

November 12

Nets:

ACS Monday evenings 1930 local (7:30 pm), 146.205 MHz +600/ PL 88.5 Hz

VOMARC Wednesday evenings, except meeting night, 1930 (7:30 pm), 145.35 MHz -600/ PL 88.5 Hz

Hamfests/Conventions:

San Francisco Section Convention, Pacificon, San Ramon, October 14 thru 16

Contests:

ARCI PSK-31 Sprint, September 11

ARRL VHF QSO Party, September 10 -11  
ARCI Fall QRP QSO, October 22 - 23

ARRL CW Sweepstakes, November 5 - 7  
ARRL Phone Sweepstakes, Nov. 19 -21

ARRL 10 meter Contest, December 10 -11  
Straight Key Night, December 31, Jan 1

## **GREETINGS VOMARCIANS!**

This late breaking item just in...

...now, the real reason for this email is to clear up some confusion about item #12 in the "IMPORTANT TABLE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES", as published in Volume 9, Edition 6 of WIRELESS:

12. 1 million bicycles = 1 megacycle

Using test equipment found in all Ham Shacks, it is easily demonstrated that 1 million bicycles = \*2\* megacycles. One 1 bicycle = 2 unicycles.

73,  
George, k6ite

## **SALE PAGES**

We haven't had anything come in from the membership for our sale pages. If you have some surplus gear that you would like to sell, email a description and price to yer editor.

Yer Editor, [wd6bor@vom.com](mailto:wd6bor@vom.com)

This late-breaking idea just popped up.

There have been oodles (look it up in last month's Weights and Measures column) of new Technician class hams who have joined VOMARC over the last few years.

It has been even longer since VOMARC has sponsored an antenna building class/workshop/event/(barbecue ?)/club activity. Perhaps it is long past due for such an activity.

During previous licensing classes, VOMARC put together a Saturday during which club members could build a simple 2 meter J-pole and/or an HF wire antenna. A very nominal fee was charged to cover the cost of the materials, coax and connectors, something along the lines of \$5 to \$10.

The group then set up in my driveway and proceeded to learn how to solder, measure and tune. At the end of the day, everyone left with at least one antenna, and a little better understanding of how to build an antenna.

You all know that old saw about buying a guy a fish dinner and he expects you to take him out to eat all the time, but teach a guy to catch his own fish and then it's between him and the game warden? It's something along that same line, with the usual legal disclaimer that if the Department of Homeland

Security comes asking questions, we don't even know you.

Tim, KG6ASY, has been doing some experimenting with VHF beams, so perhaps he could bring some to show more complex antenna building techniques.

The thinking is to have the antenna day sometime in September so the weather would still be cooperative.

Let your officers know if you are interested so they can set a date and start planning.

## THE VOMARC WIRELESS

### VOLUME 9 EDITION 7

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club - W6AJF

Frank C. Jones - W6AJF  
Honorary President in Perpetuity

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW - President  
Dan Sorrick, KG6LJN - Vice-President  
Joan Brady, W6WXU - Secretary  
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - Treasurer  
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Membership Chair  
Mike Miller, WB6TMH - Radio Officer  
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - ACS  
Jan Bush, AE6FQ - Webmeister  
Joel Nadler, NN6J - VE Liaison  
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Editor

***Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.***

**CLUB MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

**WEB PAGE:**  
<http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

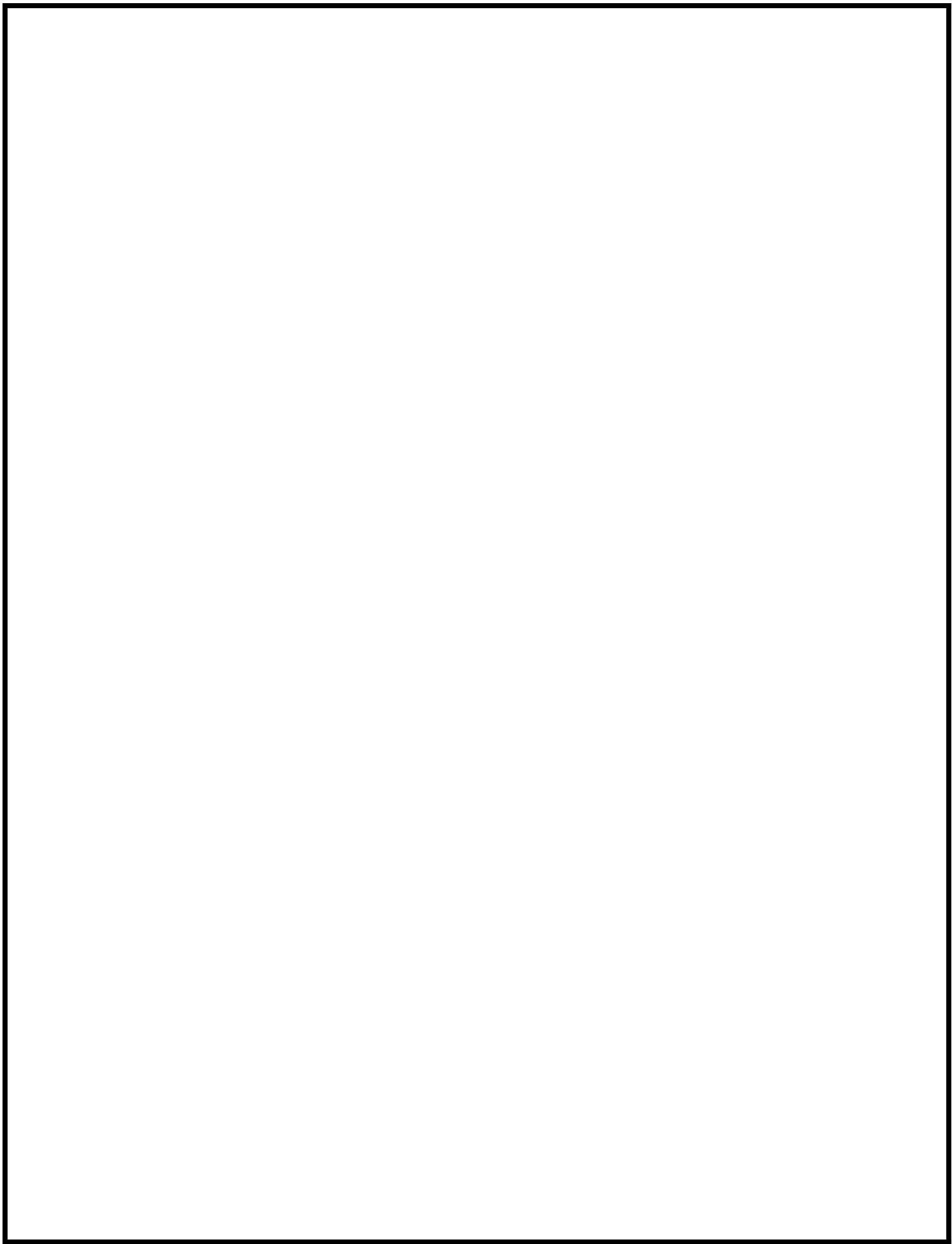
**ACS** holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

**PACKET STATION INFO:** The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

**CLUB BREAKFASTS** are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:  
wd6bor@vom.com

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**  
175 First Street West  
Sonoma, CA 95476



**Valley of the Moon  
ARC  
1496 Nut Tree Lane  
Sonoma, CA 95476**

**NOTICE!!! THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, AT 7:30 P.M. AT MCDOUGAL  
HALL AT THE SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER  
CU THERE!**

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**VOMARC MEMBERSHIP**

**VOMARC 2005**    Membership Dues:    \$15/year individual;    \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
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VOMARC: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### **Membership Moment, From the Database Queen**

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Ken N6KM, or Jim K6UUW, 1496 Nut Tree Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger; email Eileen KG6QNT at [Eileen@vom.com](mailto:Eileen@vom.com). Your check should be made payable to:

**VOMARC**